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(e) Abortion.

(d) Celibacy.

(e) Abstinence.

(f) Birth control.

(g) Certain social customs.

(h) Prolonged lactation.

(i) Hypergamy.

163 Of the positive checks war is becoming a rare phenomenon these days
164 and starvation and famine though in a mild form does affect the birth-rate in the Jammu Province and the Frontier Districts while the Kashmir Province is in this respect better situated. As regards disease this check also receives full play in Jammu Province where Plague cuts off the natural increase to a great extent and malarial fever is responsible for considerable mortality and is thus unfavourable to fertility. In Kathua and other malarial localities most of the deaths are due to the malarial fever and the surviving population is reduced to a considerably low pitch of vitality which make the sufferers an easy prey to other diseases. The venereal diseases act as another powerful positive check by causing premature death of the sufferers and leaving their children to propagate misery and further suffering.

163 As regards the preventive checks female infanticide which was much in
847 vogue amongst the Rajputs is considerably reduced—thanks to the measures
taken by His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur to stamp out this inhuman prac-
tice from his territories. Abortion is not practised by the people as a means of
842 checking larger number of births but is only resorted to prevent illegitimate births which the society regards as an unpardonable sin. Again celibacy and voluntary abstinence being against human nature play a very inferior part in limiting births and the Neo-Malthusian methods of "Birth Control" are very little known in the rural areas not to speak of their being put into practice by the uneducated villager who is so reckless about production of children. Confidential enquiries made regarding the sale of rubber goods from private practitioners and Chemists and Druggists who stock these articles only go to show that even in the cities the use of these methods is practised on too small a scale to have any appreciable results. The Customs Department which was also requested to supply the figures of import of these articles regretted that separate figures were not available. The only preventive check which has proved highly effective in controlling the birth-rate in the advanced countries is almost absent in the State.

163 As regards social customs of hypergamy which forbids the marriage of a
564 girl with a man of a social group equal to or inferior to her and forces her to
marry a man of a superior group is completely absent in the State while prac-
● 853 tice of prolonged lactation which results in decreased conceptivity being within the knowledge of common people does act as a very mild preventive check.

163 The "postponement of marriage" especially in the case of girls acts as a
582 powerful check in restraining births but this check also has had very little play in India where marriage amongst the Hindus being a religious necessity enjoined by the Shastras is universal and the practice of marrying girls before puberty resulting in high birth-rate was universally recognised. Now by the passing of legislative enactment within the State the age of marriage has been raised to 18 for boys and 14 for girls which it is hoped while preventing much misery consequent upon deaths of child-wives and of children produced by them, will instead of acting as a check lessen the growth of population by preventing deaths.

4 [On population -- Analysis]